

Arizona Copper Company, Chief Engineer's House
Clifton Townsite
Park Avenue
Clifton
Greenlee County
Arizona

HABS
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6-CLIFT,
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ARIZONA COPPER COMPANY, CHIEF ENGINEER'S HOUSE

HABS No. AZ-174-E

Location:

Clifton Townsite, Park Avenue, Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona

Significance:

Associated with the Arizona Copper Company and with the development of Clifton.

Description:

This house sits on a large lot on the east bank of the San Francisco River with well-manicured front and rear lawns. A wooden fence surrounds the property. The house is typical of Bungalow style residences. Exterior walls are constructed of wood framing with wood clapboard siding. The plan is irregular. The roof is a cross-gable with asphalt shingles; the rafter tails are left exposed at the eaves. Knee braces appear at the gable ends. The front entry porch has a gable roof supported by massive brick columns, each topped by three wooden posts. All of the windows are wood double-hung, with either a 1-over-1 or multi-lights-over-1 pattern.

History:

This residence was constructed in 1918 by the Arizona Copper Company as the home for its Chief Engineer, Spencer Bishop. This residence was the last of four homes built for officials of the Arizona Copper Company on the east side, the others being residences for the General Manager, the Store Manager, and the Store Cashier (purchasing agent). A.C. Company residences were originally constructed on the west side of the river, but had to be moved for the construction of the El Paso and New Mexico Railway passenger depot and freight depot (see HABS No. AZ-180 and AZ-195). The Chief Engineer's House was constructed by contractor Dave May for the Arizona Copper Company. It contained five bedrooms and one bath. The A.C. Company rented it to its Chief Engineer for \$30.00 per month. After the A.C. Company was acquired by Phelps Dodge, the residence saw sporadic use as lodging for visiting officials. Its most recent use was as the Phelps Dodge training center.¹

Sources (endnotes):

1. Copper Era February 22, 1918 (I, 5: 4); Arizona Copper Company 1921 base map; Arizona Copper Company rent records on file at University of Arizona Special Collections Library, Tucson.

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